

The Gospel of John

I. Introduction to John

1. Several differences from the “synoptic” gospels.

Synoptic = “see or view together”

- a. John omits events and references that are extremely important in the synoptics (baptism of Jesus; Last Supper; Kingdom of God; no Gethsemane prayer).
- b. John has much information that the Synoptics leave out.
[SLIDE] Over 90 percent of John is unique to John
(The raising of Lazarus is recorded only in John; the washing of the disciples’ feet; “Lamb of God” only in John).

2. The “I am” statements of Jesus
 - a. I am the bread of life – 6:35
 - b. I am the light of the world – 8:12
 - c. I am the door – 10:9
 - d. I am the good shepherd – 10:11
 - e. I am the resurrection and the life – 11:25
 - f. I am the way, the truth, and the life – 14:6
 - g. I am the true vine – 15:1

3. John’s purpose in writing: See John 20:30

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.¹

II. Some Key Texts

1. The prologue: John 1:1-14
 - a. The opening words of v. 1 evoke the creation story of Genesis 1.
 - b. Focus shifts to John the Baptist; note the use of ‘witness.’

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 20:30–31). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

c. Receive / Believe / Born

d. Incarnation (v. 14)

2. The New Birth: John 3:1-8

a. Nicodemus = Pharisee; ruler of the Jews.

b. Jesus' response v. 3; Born again = lit. born "from above."

c. Born from above = born of the Spirit

In the Week ahead:

1. Read John 13-17 for class on April 29th.

2. Reflect: What does the 'New birth' look like in your life?

(NOTE: The material below will be the focus of the class session on April 29th)

3. The "Farewell discourse": John 13-17

a. The example of servanthood and a 'new command' (John 13)

b. The promise of the Holy Spirit (John 14:15ff.)

c. 'Abiding' in the Vine (John 15:1-11)